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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: It's in the StatePaper, I'm sorry, in the StatePaper.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. The record shows, it's my understanding that the record shows that the situation was reported in a timely manner. In the beginning, there was a some misinformation that spread due to the severity of the case, and the relocation of families for the night, some went back. It was a bit of a confusing process. Over all, big picture, all the parties interested, I believe, did very well, whether it was the city and the emergency responders or the railroad in taking care of the situation, mitigating the situation as we speak, to this day, and it's been almost a year and a half. My concern is that that situation was brought up (a) without all the correct information and (b) to try to say that a two-person crew somehow caused that to happen or did not cause that to happen. I hope that we can keep the facts straight and not diminish the severity of the scenario in trying to argue for something that I think is totally unrelated to the matter at hand. If you...I would yield time so you can respond.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: May I respond? Yes. I don't know what facts you're referring to that weren't appropriately set forth, and the point wasn't that...whose fault it was or anything of that nature. The point was that spills do occur and that people need to respond in that event, and that there was one that did occur in your...your district and that it...it shows that these people are carrying toxic type materials and that there needs to be response in the areas that...that were affected there needed...needed a prompt response. And I know there was some confusion. There's always confusion when you have a widespread situation. Number one, they probably don't know what it is that is the...is the toxic material and so they need to...they need to analyze that and then see what appropriate action to take. The point was that these things do occur. Thank you.

SENATOR SMITH: I...I would also add that, yes, they occur and, yes, that occurred under the policy of a two-person crew, and I hope that we can keep the facts within the purview here of the bill and how...